United Nations A/C.3/55/L.1

General Assembly

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Fifty-fifth session
Third Committee

Organization of the work of the Third Committee

Note by the Secretariat

Allocation of items

1. The agenda items allocated by the General Assembly to the Third Committee are listed in the letter from the President of the Assembly to the Chairperson of the Third Committee (A/C.3/55/1). Background information on those items may be found in the annotations to the agenda (A/55/100).

Programme of work

2. The draft programme of work (see annex) has been prepared bearing in mind paragraph (b) of rule 99 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the organizational arrangements agreed upon by the Assembly at the outset of its current session (A/55/250), relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the Assembly on the rationalization of its work and that of the Third Committee, the schedule of related intergovernmental meetings and the availability of documentation, as well as past experience in the utilization of conference services.

3. The attention of the Committee is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 54/236 of 23 December 1999, entitled "Programme planning", regarding the review by, inter alia, the Main Committees of the General Assembly of the proposed medium-term plan and its revisions (A/55/6).

Interactive dialogues and debates

4. In accordance with the evolving practice of the Committee, immediately following the introduction of reports by executive heads and senior members of the Secretariat at the beginning of each debate, time will be set aside for an interactive dialogue between these officials and members of the Committee as part of the formal proceedings. Delegations are invited to participate actively in these dialogues with questions and comments in an unscripted format. They are requested to withhold their prepared statements for the Committee's official debates immediately following the dialogues.

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5. Under agenda items 110 (Promotion and protection of the rights of children), 112 (Elimination of racism and racial discrimination), 113 (Right of peoples to self-determination) and 114 (Human rights questions), time will likewise be set aside for dialogues with the special rapporteurs and representatives who will be reporting on their activities.

6. Under agenda item 114, it should be noted that delegations may make one statement each under sub-items (a) and (d), which are to be discussed separately. Delegations may also make two statements under sub-items 114 (b), (c) and (e), but they should not make two statements on any one of those sub-items.

List of documents

7. Attention is drawn to the status of preparation of documentation submitted under the various agenda items allocated to the Third Committee (A/C.3/55/L.1/Add.1). Because of the critical need for the timely issuance of documentation, that document will be revised to update the information contained therein.

Length of statements

8. In accordance with established practice, the Committee has decided to limit statements on all agenda items. The time limit for statements in the general discussion of the various agenda items is seven minutes for delegations and 15 minutes for representatives of groups of delegations. Secretariat officials will also be limited to seven-minute statements, except when they deliver oral reports. In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly, delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for the same day and both meetings are devoted to consideration of the same item. The first statement in exercise of the right of reply may be five minutes, and the second statement should be no longer than three minutes.

Conference facilities and meetings arrangements

9. Unless otherwise specified, meetings will be held at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The General Assembly has reminded delegations that punctuality is of the utmost importance for ensuring an effective and orderly organization of work and achieving economies for the United Nations. As decided by the Assembly, the requirement that at least one quarter of the members of the Committee must be present to declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed has been waived.

Control and limitation of documentation

10. The Committee's attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 50/206 C of 23 December 1995 on the control and limitation of documentation. The Secretariat wishes to emphasize, in particular, paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of that resolution, in which the Assembly requested, inter alia, restraint on the part of members of all intergovernmental bodies in making proposals containing requests for new reports.

Report of the Economic and Social Council

11. The Committee is reminded that in accordance with a decision of the General Assembly, chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/55/3) are to be considered in conjunction with documentation under the relevant substantive agenda items, as well as under item 12.

Conclusion of the work of the Committee

12. Bearing in mind the allocation of the number of meetings available to the Third Committee and previous decisions of the General Assembly, the Assembly has set a target date of Friday, 10 November, for the conclusion of its work.

Annex

Proposed programme of work of the Third Committee

Programme	*Documentation*
Tuesday, 5 September	
(Plenary of the General Assembly) Consecutive meetings of the Main Committees to elect the Chairpersons	
Friday, 15 September	
10 a.m.	
Election of the Bureau and organization of work	
Week of 25-29 September	
Monday, 25 September	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:	
Item 103 Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family[a]	Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2000 (A/55/3)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons (A/55/167)
	Report on the World Social Situation, 2000 (E/2000/9)
Item 104 Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons[a]	Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons (A/55/167)
1 p.m.	
Closure of list of speakers on items 103 and 104	
Tuesday, 26 September	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 103 and 104 General discussion (continued)	

Programme	*Documentation*
Wednesday, 27 September	
No meetings	
Thursday, 28 September	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 103 and 104 General discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 103 and 104	
Friday, 29 September	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:	
Item 105 Crime prevention and criminal justice[b]	Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2000 (A/55/3)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/55/156)
	Report of the Secretary-General on crime prevention and criminal justice (A/55/119)
Item 106 International drug control[b]	Comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and on Assembly resolution 53/115 (A/55/126)
1 p.m.	
Closure of list of speakers on items 105 and 106	
Week of 2-6 October	
Monday, 2 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 105 and 106 General discussion (continued)	

Programme	*Documentation*
Tuesday, 3 October	
No meetings	
Wednesday, 4 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 105 and 106 General discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 105 and 106	
Thursday, 5 October	
No meetings	
Friday, 6 October	
3 p.m.	
Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:	
Item 107 Advancement of women[c]	Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2000 (A/55/3) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (A/55/38 and Rev.1) Report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls (A/55/322) Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action (A/55/293) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/55/308) Report of the Secretary-General on the revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Programme	*Documentation*
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/55/271)
Item 108 Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[c]	Report of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (A/55/341)

6 p.m.

Closure of list of speakers on items 107 and 108

Week of 9-13 October

Monday, 9 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 107 and 108 General discussion (continued)

Tuesday, 10 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 107 and 108 General discussion (concluded)

6 p.m.

Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 107 and 108

Wednesday, 11 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Introductory statements, dialogue with senior Secretariat officials and general discussion of:	Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (A/55/41)
Item 110 Promotion and protection of the rights of children	Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/55/201)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

Programme	*Documentation*
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/55/297)
	Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/55/163-S/2000/712)

1 p.m.

Closure of list of speakers on item 110

Thursday, 12 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Item 110 General discussion (continued)

Friday, 13 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Item 110 General discussion (concluded)

6 p.m.

Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 110

Week of 16-20 October

Monday, 16 October

3 p.m.

Introductory statements and general discussion of:

Item 111 Programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the programme of activities of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
	Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade (A/55/268)

Programme	*Documentation*
	Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations (A/55/202)
6 p.m. *Closure of list of speakers on item 111*	
Tuesday, 17 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. *Item 111* General discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m. *Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 111*	
Wednesday, 18 October	
10 a.m. Introductory statements, dialogue with special rapporteurs and general discussion of:	
Item 112 Elimination of racism and racial discrimination[4]	Relevant section of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2000 (A/55/3) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/55/18) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (A/55/266) Report of the Secretary-General on the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and implementation of the programme of action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (A/55/285) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/55/203)

Programme	Documentation
	Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for the full implementation of the programme of action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/55/304)
	Report of the Commission on Human Rights acting as the preparatory committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (A/55/307)
Item 113 Right of peoples to self-determination[4]	Report of the Secretary-General on the rights of peoples to self-determination (A/55/176)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/55/334)

1 p.m.

Closure of list of speakers on items 112 and 113

Thursday, 19 October

10 a.m.

Items 112 and 113 General discussion (continued)

3 p.m.

Medium-term plan (see agenda item 118, Programme planning)

Programme	*Documentation*
Friday, 20 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 112 and 113 General discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 112 and 113	
Week of 23-27 October	
Monday, 23 October	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Introductory statements and general discussion of:	Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for 2000 (A/55/3)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and addenda (A/55/280/Add.1 and 2)
	Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity (A/55/296/Add.1)
Item 114 (a) Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments [c f]	Report of the Human Rights Committee (A/55/40)
	Report of the Committee against Torture (A/55/44)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (A/55/207)
	Report of the Secretary-General on effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights (A/55/278)

Programme	*Documentation*
	Report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (A/55/178)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (A/55/208)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (A/55/205)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (A/55/290)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of persons chairing United Nations human rights treaty bodies on their twelfth meeting (A/55/206)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the final report of the independent expert on enhancing the long-term effectiveness of the United Nations human rights treaty monitoring system (A/55/313 and E/CN.4/2000/98)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (A/55/204)

1 p.m.

Closure of list of speakers on item 114 (a)

Tuesday, 24 October

10 a.m.

Item 114 (a) General discussion (concluded)

Programme	*Documentation*
3 p.m.	
Introductory statements, dialogue with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with special rapporteurs and representatives and general discussion of:	
Item 114 (b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms [cf]	Note by the Secretariat on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/55/214)
	Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development (A/55/302)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the mid-term global evaluation of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004 (A/55/360)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief (A/55/280)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert on the right to development (A/55/306)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/55/288)
	Report of the Secretary-General on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/55/342)
	Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity and addendum (A/55/296 and Add. 1)

Programme		*Documentation*
		Report of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders (A/55/292)
		Report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/55/279)
		Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Cambodia (A/55/291)
		Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation based in the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (A/55/213)
		Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the rule of law (A/55/177)
		Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of migrants (A/55/275)
		Report of the Secretary-General on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances (A/55/289)
		Report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/55/283)
Item 114 (c)	Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives [c f]	Note by the Secretariat regarding the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (A/55/318)
		Report of the Secretary-General on the human rights situation in the Sudan
		Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar
		Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights situation in Burundi (A/55/358)

Programme	Documentation
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Haiti (A/55/335)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of human rights in Afghanistan (A/55/346)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (A/55/282-S/2000/788)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Iraq (A/55/294)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/55/359)
	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights on the situations on human rights in Rwanda (A/55/269)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (A/55/363)
	Report of the Secretary-General on the human rights situation in southern Lebanon and Western Bekaa
	Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Kosovo

Programme		*Documentation*
Item 114 (d)	Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action [c f]	
Item 114 (e)	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [c f]	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/55/36)

6 p.m.

Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 114 (a)

Closure of list of speakers on items 114 (b) to (e)

Wednesday, 25 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 114 (b) to (e) General discussion (continued)

Thursday, 26 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 114 (b) to (e) General discussion (continued)

Friday, 27 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 114 (b) to (e) General discussion (continued)

Week of 30 October-3 November

Monday, 30 October

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 114 (b) to (e) General discussion (continued)

Tuesday, 31 October

10 a.m.

Items 114 (b) to (e) General discussion (continued)

Wednesday, 1 November

10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Items 114 (b) to (e) General discussion (continued)

Programme	Documentation
Thursday, 2 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Items 114 (b) to (e) General discussion (concluded)	
6 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on items 114 (b), (c), (d) and (e)	
Friday, 3 November	
Action on draft proposals	
Week of 6-10 November	
Monday, 6 November	
10 a.m.	
Introductory statements, dialogue with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and general discussion of:	
Item 109 Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/55/12 and Add.1) Report of the Secretary-General on a new international humanitarian order Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa
1 p.m.	
Closure of list of speakers on item 109	

Programme	*Documentation*
Tuesday, 7 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Item 109 General discussion (continued)	
Wednesday, 8 November	
10 a.m.	
Item 109 General discussion (concluded)	
1 p.m.	
Deadline for submission of draft proposals on item 109	
3 p.m.	
Action on draft proposals	
Thursday, 9 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Action on all outstanding draft proposals	
Friday, 10 November	
10 a.m. and 3 p.m.	
Action on all outstanding draft proposals	
Item 12 Report of the Economic and Social Council	Report of the Economic and Social Council for 2000 (A/55/3)

Conclusion of the work of the Third Committee

[a] It is proposed to discuss items 103 and 104 jointly; delegations may make two separate statements, i.e., one on each item, if they so wish.

[b] It is proposed to discuss items 105 and 106 jointly; delegations may make two separate statements, i.e., one on each item, if they so wish.

[c] It is proposed to discuss items 107 and 108 jointly; delegations may make two separate statements, i.e., one on each item, if they so wish.

[d] See General Assembly decision 52/428; items 112 and 113 to be discussed jointly; delegations may make two separate statements, i.e., one on each item, if they so wish.

[e] See General Assembly decision 53/434; sub-items (a) and (d) to be discussed separately; sub-items (b), (c) and (e) to be discussed jointly.

[f] See General Assembly decision 53/434; delegations may make one statement each under sub-items (a) and (d) and two statements under sub-items (b), (c) and (e), but should not make two statements on any one of those sub-items.